The
REPORTER
For Conscience' Sake

VOLUME XVII APRIL, 1960 NUMBER 4

International Youth Volunteer Services in Morocco

By Caron Boyce

(Editor's note: The disastrous earthquake in Agadir has focused world attention on this Moroccan city. For several years European and American pacifists have joined in working at agricultural improvement projects among Berber natives. An expanded program called for work with Algerian refugees and construction of houses for Rabat slum dwellers. Added personnel had scarcely arrived when the disaster occurred. One of these persons was asked to report on the present work at Agadir and on other aspects of the program.)

Whether Frenchmen have spoken of PAIX, Germans and Swiss of FRIEDEN, Canadians and Americans of PEACE, or Dutch of VREDE, all who have shared in the work of this team have been compelled by the realization that their hopes for peace demand actions which will alleviate the needs and tensions of a hungry, cold, oppressed and fearful world. Their efforts have been united in EIRENE (Greek for peace), an international Christian voluntary service. Throughout the past two years volunteers from these nations have been helping their neighbors in Morocco.

They are distributing food, clothing, blankets and tents to the victims of the disastrous earthquake that occurred in Agadir, Morocco, on the night of February 29. Agadir was almost completely destroyed. Consequently it is now a dead city! It was an economic, resort and tourist center of southern Morocco. The city had an approximate population of 40,000 of which 10,000 were tourists and visitors. Approximately 15,000 people were killed. The survivors were evacuated with the help of the French, American and Moroccan armies. After the city was evacuated, it was sealed off and sprayed with disinfectants. Emergency feeding stations were set up.

Ron Studebaker, I-W, distributes soup to Agadir children.

The EIRENE team consisting of Annemarie Greub, Swiss; Herbert Moeller and Immanuel Munz, German; Bill Babcock, Gabriel Ebersole, Harvey Martin, American Mennonites; Caron Boyce, John Glick, Ron Studebaker, Margaret Wampler and director Daryl Brandt and family, American members of the Church of the Brethren, has headquarters in North Morocco.

The team arrived at Agadir on March 3 where they distributed material and engaged in emergency feeding. The World Council of Churches

(Continued on Page 4)

Published by the National Service Board for Religious Objectors

Robert B. Myers:

NSBRO Attorney-Advisor

Recent Court Cases Involving CO's

No cases involving conscientious objectors have been recorded in the official reports since my last accounting. However, the case of ABEL v. U. S., Case #2 in the 1959 term, decided by the Supreme Court on March 28, 1960, may have some significance for attorneys who defend conscientious objectors. The case has not yet been officially reported, but newspaper accounts indicate that by a 5 to 4 vote, the Supreme Court ruled that evidence, obtained by Immigration officials without a warrant and purportedly for administrative purposes, was admissible in the criminal espionage trial against Rudolf Ivanovich Abel.

It is my recollection that some federal courts (I believe the 4th circuit court of appeals) ruled that FBI investigative reports and Hearing Officer letters could not be subpoenaed at a criminal trial because they were obtained for "administrative purposes." I believe that by this reasoning, the 4th circuit court of appeals, in a CO case, distinguished the JENCKS case.

Bulletin No. 79 Amendment Not a Policy Change

The deletion of the provision that conscientious objectors might waive by letter their armed forces physical examination, as outlined in Operations Bulletin No. 79, is not to be interpreted as a change in policy for all I-O registrants. The Bulletin, which deals with S. S. S. Form No. 153 and the ordering of men to report for civilian work, was revised on March 17, 1960, due to the fact that persons to whom the former paragraph 5 applied no longer exist.

The outdated provision apparently was to facilitate assignment for the limited number of I-O registrants who at the time of the initiation of the conscientious objector work program on July 1, 1952, had voluntarily, and with prior approval of Selective Service, begun work with an approved agency. By letter to their local board they could waive the physical exam and initiate their official order to report for work. However, they still had to serve 24 consecutive months from the date of this official order to report for work.

Applicable procedure for I-O registrants is clearly stated on S. S. S. Form No. 223, which orders them to report for the Armed Forces Physical Examination. This states to Class I-O men: "If you fail to report for or submit to the Armed Forces Physical Examination, you will be deemed to be available to be ordered to perform civilian work in the same manner as if you had taken the Armed Forces Physical Examination and had been found acceptable."

Should they so wish, Class I-O men therefore still have the possibility of being ordered to report for civilian work without having undergone the armed forces physical examination, although local boards must first issue Form 223, the order to report for examination. However, it is practically always in the best interests of the registrant to undergo the examination.

Council Holds Annual Session

Members of the Consultative Council met in Washington on April 19 for their annual session with the Board and staff of the NSBRO to hear reports on current problems and developments relating to the conscientious objector and conscription.

One of the highlights of the day was a luncheon meeting with a talk by Colonel Charles H. Grahl, Special Assistant to the Director of the Selective Service System, with special responsibilities for the conscientious objector work program.

Colonel Grahl, long associated with the Selective Service System, reminisced about the work of conscientious objectors during World War II, when he was State Director in Iowa. He noted that nationally 12,000 conscientious objectors were assigned to work of national importance and contributed six million man days of labor. Churches supported them by raising $7 million to finance this vast program. He

The Reporter
For Conscience' Sake
Published by the
National Service Board for Religious Objectors
Room 403, 401 3rd Street, N. W.
Washington 1, D. C.

Board of Directors
W. Harold Row, Chairman
William T. Snyder, Vice-Chairman
Herman Will Jr., Recording Secretary
Girven H. Culley, Treasurer
Robert F. Weiskotten
Huber F. Klemme Glenn A. Reece
Executive Secretary
J. Harold Sherk
Associate Executive Secretary
Ellis J. Shenk

Attorney Advisor
Robert B. Myers
Office Secretaries
Ann Callaway Dale Drews
Helen Wiens

Subscription: 1 yr.—$1.00. 2 yrs.—$1.50. 3 yrs.—$2.00.
Published Monthly

indicated that this service was especially noteworthy in the light of the fact that these men received neither pay nor any of the benefits which veterans received.

General Lewis B. Hershey, he stated, has always been proud of the work which I-W men are performing and especially those who have served in 40 countries overseas. The General, after his recent trip to Europe, commented favorably on I-W work there to his Washington headquarters staff.

The Consultative Council was informed briefly on a number of questions including the sale and use of the film "Alternatives," NSBRO publications and literature, and several legal questions of interest to CO's. In his report on case work J. Harold Sherk, Executive Secretary, particularly noted that one of the most acute needs at present is for a policy by which persons who become conscientious objectors after enlistment or induction into the armed forces might be able to receive a discharge. Most difficulty has been encountered in relation to the Army.

June Draft Call Cut to 5500

Selective Service has been asked to ready 5,500 men for induction into the Army during the month of June. This draft call, issued April 18, by the Department of Defense, was the lowest since the start of the Korean War.

Requests for February, March, April and May all have been for 6,000 men. The department said the reason for the low June draft call is a reduction in strength by the Army to meet budget requirements. Both the Navy and Air Force have been able to maintain their authorized strengths without direct induction of draftees, although admittedly the influence of the draft has been a factor in keeping enlistments high for these two forces.

Swiss Give Views on Military

The "Tribune de Genève" last year asked its readers the question, "Do you do military duty gladly?" There was a flood of answers, forcing editors to conclude that youth by all means do not approve of military duty. They noted too that while most questioned the concept of a militia army for the present world situation, "many youth call special attention to their religious convictions in order to reject the rather gloomy tendency to compromise and conformity, which can lead to war."

Youth are more passive as a "reaction to the all too chauvinistic spirit of the elders," and regard war as an abomination, according to one young man. Another thought of military force as a "challenge to democracy, to freedom of conscience, and self-determination." "Let us do away with the military budget..." said another, and "allow those who have an unresistable urge for warring, for adventure or only to wear a uniform, to enlist somewhere else."

News Briefs

British Airman Royston Carss, whose sole objection was to handling nuclear weapons, was recognized as a CO by the London Appellate Tribunal and was discharged from the RAF on March 4. Earlier developments were reported in our last issue.

* * *

Robert E. McGrath, a member of the United Church of Christ and a University of Iowa student, was arrested for refusal to report for induction. He returned his draft card to the local board after having previously registered. McGrath, who became an "absolutist", stated that alternative work for CO's is as "degrading and devastating to the human personality" as the military. According to the CCCO report, the question of mental competancy was raised by the U. S. Marshall because the youth refused to cooperate with all Selective Service regulations.

* * *

Daniel M. Swartzentruber, 23-year-old Amishman from Beach City, Ohio, was recently arrested for failure to report to the Columbus State Hospital to work in lieu of military service to which he had religious objection. He was released on bond pending court action.

* * *

Who's going to take care of my farm, my wife, and my cattle?" asked Aden Miller after he had been sentenced to three years for refusing to accept hospital duty in lieu of military service. Miller, an Amishman from Millersburg, Ohio, changed his mind after a week in jail and Federal Judge Paul Jones withdrew the prison sentence. Miller will serve as an orderly in the Wooster Community Hospital, Ohio.

Similarly in Pennsylvania, Kore K. Kanagy of Belleville decided in Federal Court at Williamsport to accept work in a Harrisburg hospital after he had been brought before Judge Frederick V. Follmer for his earlier refusal. Accompanied by nine Amish leaders and relatives, Kanagy made the decision after prayer after conferring with the group.

* * *

A Boston University professor and poet, Robert Lowell, who as a CO during World War II served a prison term, was presented with the 11th Annual National Bood Award for poetry for his book, "Life Studies." In 1947 his second book of poems won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry.

* * *

A quarter of a million (2.5%) of the members of the Methodist Church consider themselves pacifists, according to a study being conducted at Boston University School of Theology. An additional 3.2% declared they cannot support nuclear war, reports the CCCO News Notes.

* * *

William E. Callahan received an undesirable discharge from the Army in January, ending a three-year struggle to gain release from the military because of conscientious objection to war. (The Reporter, Nov. 1958) Callahan, who had accepted noncombatant duty in 1957, refused to cooperate after several weeks and was courtmartialed. He was returned to active duty last summer following 18 months at hard labor. Shortly after his refusal to obey further orders, his commanding officer recommended a discharge. Callahan expects to appeal for an honorable discharge, according to the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors.

International Youth, Cont'd.

promptly designated EIRENE as their representative to carry out relief measures in the disaster area. Part of the team is now working there on a long term basis. They have begun work in a village of Agadir, digging a well, which is the village's main water supply. They will continue distributing clothing, blankets and tents and help to rebuild houses, schools and to give social aid. The five EIRENE team members in the village are living in true native style - in tents. They do their own cooking and go to the public bath.

Three other CO's with EIRENE are working with Algerian refugee men on a farm in northeast Morocco near the Algerian border. Another volunteer is working with the director in the EIRENE home, where volunteers and guests visit and new volunteers receive orientation.

EIRENE was founded in the autumn of 1957 by the Brethren Service Commission and the Mennonite Central Committee to provide a channel through which young men and women from various countries and churches could render a voluntary service for international understanding. One concern was to work with common people in places of tensions, where Christian love could contribute to reconciliation.

A second concern was to provide alternative service possibilities for CO's, both American and European. While Great Britain and the USA allow CO's to do alternative service abroad, the Netherlands and the Scandinavian countries make no provision for service abroad. Belgium, France, Italy, Switzerland and Spain still do not have provisions for the recognition of CO's

West Germany in January of this year passed a law permitting alternative service. Although this law does not mention specifically service in foreign countries, it is hoped that by continuing negotiations with government representatives permission will be granted for CO's to serve with such organizations as EIRENE in Morocco.

EIRENE has prepared several projects for CO's in West Germany, mainly in connection with hospitals. The opening of these projects is anticipated for the fall of 1960.

THE REPORTER
For Conscience' Sake
401 Third St., N. W., Room 403
Washington 1, D. C.

FORWARDING POSTAGE GUARANTEED

Bulk Rate
U. S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 5540
Washington, D. C.